In the Claims

Please amend claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for suturing an opening in an internal organ of a patient, comprising:

a first catheter for insertion to an opening to be sealed through a working channel of an endoscope, a distal portion of the first catheter including a first hinge formed a predetermined distance from a distal end thereof and a second hinge formed proximally of the first hinge so that, when the distal end of the first catheter contacts a tissue, the distal portion of the first catheter folds into a radially expanded configuration;

a plurality of anchoring members received within the first catheter, each of the anchoring members including a shaft extending from a tissue penetrating distal tip to a suture receiving proximal end and a gripping arm moveable between an insertion configuration in which the gripping arm is folded against the shaft and a gripping configuration in which the gripping arm extends away from the shaft[[;

]]a first one of the anchoring members including a contact pressure mechanism which releases the gripping arm of the first anchoring member from the insertion configuration when the distal tip of the ~~corresponding~~ first anchoring member penetrates the tissue;

a driving member extending through the first catheter to a proximal end thereof, wherein advancing the driving member distally into the first catheter advances the anchoring members distally through the first catheter to drive a distal-most one of the anchoring members out of the first catheter to anchor in the tissue; and

a length of suture extending between the suture receiving proximal ends of the anchoring members.

2-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim [[7]]1, wherein the distal portion of the first catheter includes a third hinge formed distally of the first hinge so that, when the distal portion of the first catheter is folded into the radially expanded configuration, the distal end of the first catheter abuts the gripping arm of the distal-most one of the anchoring members to retain ~~the~~ a gripping arm of this distal-most catheter in ~~the~~ an insertion configuration until a proximal end of the gripping arm passes distally beyond the distal end of the first catheter.

9. (Previously Presented) A device for suturing an opening in an internal organ of a patient, comprising:

a first catheter for insertion to an opening to be sealed through a working channel of an endoscope;

a second catheter slidably received within the first catheter;

a plurality of anchoring members received within the second catheter, each of the anchoring members including a shaft extending from a tissue penetrating distal tip to a suture receiving proximal end and a gripping arm moveable between an insertion configuration in which the gripping arm is folded against the shaft and a gripping configuration in which the gripping arm extends away from the shaft;

a driving member slidably received within the second catheter, extending through the second catheter to a proximal end thereof, wherein advancing the driving member distally into the second catheter advances the anchoring members distally through the second catheter to drive a distal-most one of the anchoring members out of the second catheter to anchor in a tissue; and

a length of suture extending between the suture receiving proximal ends of

the anchoring members.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A device for suturing an opening in an internal organ of a patient, comprising:

a first catheter for insertion to an opening to be sealed through a working channel of an endoscope;

a plurality of anchoring members received within the first catheter, each of the anchoring members including a shaft extending from a tissue penetrating distal tip to a suture receiving proximal end and a gripping arm moveable between an insertion configuration in which the gripping arm is folded against the shaft and a gripping configuration in which the gripping arm extends away from the shaft;

a driving member extending through the first catheter to a proximal end thereof, wherein advancing the driving member distally into the first catheter advances the anchoring members distally through the first catheter to drive a distal-most one of the anchoring members out of the first catheter to anchor in a tissue;

wherein the driving member includes a knot holding section, a suture cutting surface and a lumen extending therethrough and wherein the suture extends through the lumen to a proximal end of the device; and

a length of suture extending between the suture receiving proximal ends of the anchor members.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 9, wherein the second catheter selectively couples to the distal-most one of the anchoring members so that, after the distal-most one of the anchoring members has been embedded in tissue, the user may release the distal-most one of the anchoring members from the second catheter.

14. (Original) The device according to claim 11, wherein the knot holding section includes a suture holding pin which, in a suture holding configuration, protrudes from the driving member and, in a suture release configuration, is withdrawn into the driving member.

15. (Original) A system for suturing an opening within a body, comprising:

an endoscope including a working channel extending therethrough;

a first catheter slidably received within the working channel;

a second catheter slidably received within the first catheter and including a plurality of anchoring members slidably received therein, wherein the anchoring members include projecting members for maintaining the anchoring members in desired positions in tissue, the projecting members being in a retracted state while received within the second catheter;

a third catheter slidably received within the second catheter and extending from a proximal end of the endoscope to a proximal end of a proximal-most one of the anchoring members; and

a length of suture extending between the anchoring members.

16. (Original) The system according to claim 15, wherein the first catheter includes a contact pressure mechanism which retains the projecting members in the retracted state until they

are deployed in tissue.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 16, wherein the contact pressure mechanism includes a folding portion of the first catheter which, when pushed against tissue, collapses axially into a radially expanded configuration with a holding surface abutting at least one projecting member of a distal-most one of the anchoring members to maintain the projecting member in the retracted state while in contact therewith.

18. (Currently Amended) A device for suturing tissue within a body of a patient, comprising:

a first catheter for insertion through a working channel of an endoscope;

a plurality of anchoring members received within the first catheter, each of the anchoring members including a shaft extending from a tissue penetrating distal tip to a suture receiving proximal end and a gripping arm moveably coupled thereto, wherein an extending means of at least a first one of the anchoring members includes a biasing member biasing the gripping arm toward a gripping configuration and wherein the gripping member of the at least the first one of the anchoring members is restrained in an insertion configuration while received within the first catheter by contact between an inner wall of the first catheter and the gripping arm;

a driving member extending through the first catheter to a proximal end thereof, wherein advancing the driving member distally into the first catheter advances the anchoring members distally through the first catheter to drive a distal-most one of the anchoring members out of the first catheter to anchor in tissue, ~~each~~ a first one of the anchoring members including extending means for deploying the gripping arm of the ~~corresponding~~ first anchoring member from the insertion configuration in which the gripping arm is folded against the shaft to the gripping configuration in which the gripping arm extends away from the shaft when the ~~corresponding~~ first anchoring

member is deployed from the first catheter into the tissue; and

a length of suture extending between the suture receiving proximal ends of the anchoring members.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein a distal portion of the first catheter includes a first hinge formed a predetermined distance from a distal end thereof and a second hinge formed proximally of the first hinge so that, when the distal end of the first catheter contacts the tissue, the distal portion of the first catheter folds into a radially expanded configuration.